

**TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2013**

PRESENT: Michael Guarco, Chairman; Francis Brady, Robert Clark, Frederick Moffa, OD, and Al Wilke

Also present: John E. Adams, First Selectman; Board of Selectmen Members - Sally S. King, Ronald F. Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, Mark C. Neumann, William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager; Barbarajean C. Scibelli, Administration Finance Officer; Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools

Chairman Guarco called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON THE 2013-14 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET

Chairman Guarco opened this topic for discussion by the Board. He indicated that the proposed town budget was defeated (514 yes - 617 no). The Board members each spoke regarding the final tally of votes. They indicated they felt that the proposed budget was appropriate since there were no objections to the budget. Other comments made were a need to review the proposed budget. This year was a different process, and apparently town officials did not promote the budget to the public.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Wilke, seconded by Mr. Brady, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to recess the meeting at 8:29 p.m. until tomorrow (April 23, 2013) at 8:00 p.m. in the Police Department Community Room. Agenda items one, two, and three will be taken up tomorrow

APRIL 23, 2013

PRESENT: Michael Guarco, Chairman; Francis Brady, Robert Clark, Frederick Moffa, OD, and Al Wilke

Also present: John E. Adams, First Selectman; Board of Selectmen Members – Sally S. King, Ronald F. Desrosiers, B. Scott Kuhnly, Mark C. Neumann, William F. Smith, Jr., Town Manager; Barbarajean C. Scibelli, Administration Finance Officer; J. Cal Heminway, Board of Education Chairman; Board of Education Members – Ronald Walther, Benjamin Perron, and Alan Addley, Superintendent of Schools

Chairman Guarco called the recessed meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of March 25, 2013, public hearing minutes of April 8, 2013, and special meeting minutes of April 8, 2013.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Wilke, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the meeting minutes of March 25, 2013 as presented.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Wilke, seconded by Dr. Moffa, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the public hearing minutes of April 8, 2013 as presented.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Wilke, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to approve the special meeting minutes of April 8, 2013 as presented.

CONSIDERATION OF 2012-13 AUDITOR

Chairman Guarco opened the discussion to the members whether they would like to pursue a new audit firm or keep the same firm as last year. Mr. Brady asked about the partner Vanessa Rossito of Blum Sharpiro & Company, PC. Town Manager Smith responded that Ms. Rossito did come to Granby to check on her staff and audit procedures. She was the partner change per the request of Board of Finance. Mr. Brady commented that the town should continue using Ms. Rossito as the lead auditor for FY13.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Wilke, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to appoint the firm of Blum Sharpiro & Company, PC, as the accounting firm performing the town's audit with Vanessa Rossito as the partner in charge.

Town Manager Smith suggested inviting Blum Shapiro to a finance meeting prior to the audit to convene their thoughts of what they would like to be included in the audit presentation and any other questions the finance members would like to ask.

CONSIDERATION OF ACTION ON THE 2013-14 ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET

Chairman Guarco opened this topic for discussion by the Board and members in attendance. A lengthy discussion ensued. Highlights were:

- Did not do a sufficient job of promoting the budget.
- Suggested reducing the budget from 2% to 1%, making it a significant and notable reduction.
- Felt there was some residual from how the capital project bond issue was handled, in particular the voting process.
- Need different communication to the public to ensure the budget passes. Perhaps listing consequences if budget fails.
- Traditionally if a budget fails, it is taken to mean that the budget should be reduced.
- There is always a core of no votes for any issue.

The Board concurred that the budget needed to be reduced. A discussion ensued regarding reducing the budget by approximately 1%, with a 3 to 1 ratio to the school and town. An amount of \$330,000 would be reduced from the budget. On the school side the amount would be \$250,000 and on the town side the amount would be \$80,000. Where the reductions would come from would be left up to the Boards to make the decision.

Town Manager Smith commented that the overall 1% reduction may be an extreme change to the budget. He mentioned, it's a different world today, especially with how issues are handled and communicated. An example is the changes made to the Charter. Due to the new Charter, a change should be made in the future as to how communication is distributed to the public. Good budgets need to be passed in order to keep Granby an attractive community.

First Selectman Adams commented the reduction can be any percentage and there will always be no votes. Town staffing has been at the same level for a long time. The Board of Selectmen has been requesting a detective and a public works employee replacement, during

his ten years as First Selectman. Both Selectmen King and Desrosiers noted there is a shift in the number needed to pass a budget. Selectman Kuhnly commented young adults communicate by using Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc. More communication to these residents by the method they prefer may assist in passing the budget. It was also discussed why people did not vote. Some reasons mentioned were busy schedules, vacations, or felt there was no controversy so no need to come out to vote.

Superintendent Addley and Board of Education member, Ben Perron, commented the reduction suggested is a major cut to the proposed budget.

If a special communication goes out to the public with signatures from the boards, the public may be more inclined to pay attention to the document. The Town Attorney would need to review it.

ON A MOTION by Mr. Brady, seconded by Mr. Wilke, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to cut the proposed FY 2013-14 budget by \$330,000. Of the \$330,000, the Board of Selectmen budget will be reduced by \$80,000 and the Board of Education budget will be reduced by \$250,000. This is the budget that will be presented at the hearing scheduled on April 29, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Guarco noted the following events or meetings in connection with the proposed budget.

1. April 29, 2013 a hearing is scheduled for informational purposes on the proposed budget at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.
2. April 29, 2013 a special meeting by the Board of Finance following the above hearing
3. May 6, 2013 a machine vote on the budget in the Town Hall Meeting Room from 12 noon to 8:00 p.m.
4. May 6, 2013 a special meeting by the Board of Finance at 8:15 p.m.

ON A MOTION by Dr. Moffa, seconded by Mr. Clark, the Board voted unanimously (5-0-0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia I. Chieski
Recording Secretary